

March 8, 2011

Dear Michigan Lawmakers:

Today, we are joining together from communities across Michigan to ask with one voice that the Michigan Legislature work immediately to modernize the state's outdated Michigan Telecommunications Act (MTA) in an effort to stimulate economic growth and attract investment for Michigan.

In 2005, the Michigan Legislature updated portions of the MTA, sending the signal to the rest of the nation that they were serious about jobs and innovation. The reform they crafted made Michigan a national leader in the fight for telecommunications growth and created significant investment right here in the Great Lakes State.

Unfortunately, we have relinquished that leadership role. In the last six years, technology has changed. The way our job makers and families communicate has changed. Other states have changed. Our regulations have not. States like Indiana have enacted much more progressive reforms leaving Michigan in the rearview mirror. Others in our region are modernizing as well, building a telecommunications and regulatory superhighway to job creation and economic growth.

If Michigan is going to pass them on that highway, we desperately need to update our telecommunications law. What's more, in the spirit of reinvention, making these critical reforms will not cost taxpayers or the state treasury a single dime.

Simply put, 20th century regulations are standing in the way of 21st century jobs and technology. Reinventing Michigan means clearing these roadblocks to investment and innovation.

We urge you to modernize the state's telecommunications law and make Michigan a national leader once again.



Amy Clickner, CEO
Lake Superior Community Partnership

Jet Kilmer, President
Grand Blanc Chamber of Commerce

Jack Krawczak, Exec. Director
Alpena Area Chamber of Commerce

Bill Teneza, President
Cadillac Area Chamber of Commerce

Carlin Smith, President
Petoskey Regional Chamber of Commerce

Mary Carroll, President
Benzie County Chamber of Commerce

Erin Bemis, President
Charlevoix Chamber of Commerce

Douglas Luciana, President and CEO
Traverse City Area Chamber of Commerce

Sandra Mull, President
Southern Wayne County Regional Chamber

Grace Stone, President
Macomb County Chamber

Vickie Micheau, Exec. Director
Delta County Chamber

Bruce Ottenburger, CEO
Dickinson Area Partnership

Ken Malik, President and CEO
Wyoming-Kentwood Chamber of Commerce

Tim Herman, President and CEO
Genesee Regional Chamber of Commerce

Wayne Oehmke, President
Sterling Heights Regional Chamber

Robert VanDeventer, President and CEO
Saginaw County Chamber

Mike Seward, President
Bay Area Chamber of Commerce

Sid Allen, President and CEO
Midland Area Chamber

Michele Hodges, President
Troy Chamber of Commerce

Daniel J. West, President
Livonia Chamber

Jo Alley, Exec. Director
Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce

Terence F. Moore, President and CEO
Great Lakes Bay Regional Alliance

Shelly Kemp, Exec. Director
Royal Oak Chamber

Sheri L. Heiney, Exec. Director
Rochester Regional Chamber

Leisa Mansfield, Exec. Director
Sault Area Chamber

Mary D. Jones, CEP
Marinette Menominee Area Chamber of Commerce